

Message Text

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWIN REPEAT CAIRO 8087 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO KHARTOUM
MOGADISCIO NDJAMENA MAR 13.
QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 08087

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: SADAT ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS

1. AT ONE POINT IN MY MARCH 11 MEETING WITH SADAT IN
FAYOUM, HE REVERTED TO A THEME WHICH REMAINS VERY MUCH ON
HIS MIND, NAMELY SOVIET-INSTIGATED ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA.
WHILE THE UNRESOLVED ARAB/ISRAELI PROBLEM TROUBLED HIM,
HE SAID HE WAS EVEN MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN
AFRICA. THIS SHOULD BE OUR PRINCIPAL CONCERN AND ARAB/
ISRAELI PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISTRACT US FROM
THIS THREAT.

2. SADAT REPEATED WHAT HE HAD EARLIER TOLD ATHERTON: IN
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LESS THAN SIX MONTHS, HE ASSERTED, WE WILL SEE TROUBLE IN
THE SUDAN FROM BOTH THE EAST AND THE WEST. AS WE KNEW,
THE SUDAN IS PART OF EGYPT'S SECURITY PERIMETER AND GOE
PREPARED TO FIGHT TO PREVENT TOPPLING OF MODERATE NUMAYRI
REGIME.

3. THE SOVIET SURROGATE THREAT THROUGH LIBYA AND ETHIOPIA

TO SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, SADAT ASSERTED, IS VERY REAL. USG DOES NOT SEEM TO REALIZE THIS. FOR HIM, HOWEVER, AS AN AFRICAN, IT IS A PROBLEM "ON MY DOORSTEP." EGYPTIANS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO SPEAK ABOUT IT. HE WAS TROUBLED BY WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT LIKELY U.S. ATTITUDES. THE UNIVERSAL CONVICTION IS "THE AMERICANS WILL DO NOTHING."

4. CHADIAN PRESIDENT MALLOUM HAD SECRETLY SENT HIM A MESSAGE SAYING NOTHING HAD COME OF HIS RECENT MEETING WITH QADHAFI IN SEBHA. A SECOND MEETING WILL BE HELD IN SEBHA LATER THIS MONTH, BUT MALLOUM THOUGHT IT TOO WILL BE STERILE. NUMAYRI, ASSISTED BY SOME "SAUDI PRESSURE," HAD PUSHED MALLOUM INTO MEETING WITH QADHAFI. IT HAD BEEN A "NAIVE" THING TO DO. BUT CHAD, HE FEARED, IS LIKELY TO HAVE TO KNUCKLE UNDER TO QADHAFI.

5. EGYPT, SADAT SAID, IF BACKED BY THE UNITED STATES, COULD CHANGE THE SITUATION IN AFRICA. FOR EXAMPLE, EGYPT COULD SEND FORCES TO HOLD BERBERA. ALSO, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY STATED, HE COULD POSITION HEAVY ARTILLERY ON THE SOMALI COAST WHICH COULD THREATEN THE SOVIET BASE AT SOQOTRA.

6. IF USG LOSES INFLUENCE AND IMAGE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, AS IT IS DOING, SADAT ASSERTED, THIS IS A DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT FOR US AND FOR HIM. USG POSITION IN ARAB AND
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AFRICAN WORLDS WILL BE DAMAGED. WE SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT, HE ARGUED, TO A MORE ACTIVE AFRICAN POLICY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH EGYPT, DESIGNED TO CHALLENGE THE GROWING SOVIET ROLE IN AFRICA.

7. COMMENT: APART FROM THESE GENERAL COMMENTS, SADAT HAD NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE

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